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Aspen Senior Congressional Education Staff Network Retreat

Planning and Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act: Next Steps for States and Districts

Wye River Conference Center 600 Aspen Drive Queenstown, MD 21658 P: 410-827-7400

August 8-10, 2017

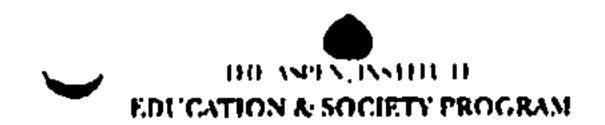
AGENDA

Retreat Goals:

- Understand how states are creating and implementing their Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans and how they will monitor implementation at different levels of the system.
- Understand states' theories of action around the design of ESSA accountability systems—including the new English language proficiency indicator—and the development of approaches to school improvement.
- Engage in active learning and build working relationships with education leaders from the field, as well
 as with colleagues from different parties and chambers.
- Explore potential roles for Congress and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in monitoring and guidance around ESSA implementation.

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

12:00 PM	Arrival and Check-In
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:15 - 1:45 PM	Welcome, Overview, and Retreat Objectives
	Ross Wiener, Vice President and Executive Director, Aspen Institute Education & Society Program
	To guide the retreat's discussion, Congressional staffers and faculty members will begin by sharing their top two learning objectives for the convening.
1:45 – 3:15 PM	Session i: Setting the Context
	Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Dakota Sharmila Mann, Director, K-12 Institute, Education Commission on the States Jake Yunker, Deputy Policy Director, Office of Governor Mary Fallin of Oklahoma



Gulding Questions:

- How is ESSA state plan development and implementation integrated with other statelevel policy priorities?
- How did feedback from stakeholders inform states' approaches? How did states engage governors?
- What lessons have states learned from the peer review process? What can states planning to submit plans in September learn from April submissions?
- What are the potential implications of future leadership changes (i.e., gubernatorial elections, state chief tumover) on ESSA implementation?

Break and individual reflection 3:15 - 3:45 PM

Session II: Designing and Implementing Accountability Systems that Support 3:45 - 5:00 PM School Improvement

Veronica Garcia, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools Betheny Lyke, Executive Director, Illinois Center for School Improvement Kunjan Narechania, Assistant Louisiana State Superintendent & Louisiana Recovery School District Superintendent

Guiding Questions:

- What are states' theories of action around their accountability systems?
- How did state education agencies (SEAs) determine what measures to include in their formal accountability systems and what measures to informally report on? What changes might SEAs make in the future? What is the data quality and capacity needed to clearly and accurately report on these measures?
- How are states and district planning to move from identifying schools for Improvement under the accountability system to improving outcomes for students?

Taking stock: Staff reflections and feedback to guide remaining discussions 5:00 - 5:20 PM

Networking Reception with Expert Faculty 6:30 PM

Staffers will have the opportunity to network with participants during the reception.

Faculty Participant Attendees: Kirsten Baesler, Veronica Garcia, Pete Goldschmidt, Betheny Lyke, Sharmila Mann, Kunjan Narechania, and Jake Yunker

Working Dinner with Discussion of Earlier Sessions 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 AM Session III: Assessing English Learners' Progress

8:30 - 10:15 AM

Pete Goldschmidt, Associate Professor, California State University Northridge, Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling Veronica Garcia, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools



Guiding Questions:

- How are SEAs setting goals and exit criteria for ELs (English learners)? What
 measures are they planning to use, and what is the quality of these data? What
 evidence or data are they using to set these goals, and what feedback have they
 received?
- How are SEAs prioritizing ELs' growth within the accountability system?
- Where are SEAs and local education agencies (LEAs) receiving resources and tools to support ELs? What supports are needed?

10:15 - 10:35 AM Break

10:35 AM - 12:00 PM Session IV: Next Steps for School Improvement

Veronica Garcia, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools
Betheny Lyke, Executive Director, Illinois Center for School Improvement
Kunjan Narechania, Assistant Louisiana State Superintendent & Louisiana Recovery
School District Superintendent

Guiding Questions:

- What are states' and LEAs theories of action around school improvement under ESSA? How does this affect their roles and responsibilities?
- How are SEAs planning to identify comprehensive support and improvement and targeted support and improvement schools? Will they distribute school improvement funds by formula or by competitive grant? How did they reach these decisions?
- How are SEAs using or complying with ESSA's evidence requirements for interventions? What interventions do they plan to use and/or approve?
- What supports do LEAs need to support comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) and targeted support and improvement (TSI) schools?

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 - 2:45 PM Session V: Deep Dive into State Plans

Pete Goldschmidt, Associate Professor, California State University Northridge, Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling

In small groups, staffers will have the opportunity to examine components of proposed approved accountability systems in two states' ESSA plans,

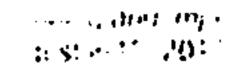
Guiding Questions:

- What is new or different? What has not changed?
- What is not captured in the plan that you would want to know about, or think ED should monitor?

2:45 - 3:00 PM Break

3:00 – 4:45 PM Session VI: Oversight and Monitoring of Plan Implementation

Pete Goldschmidt, Associate Professor, California State University Northridge, Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling Sharmila Mann, Director, K-12 Institute, Education Commission on the States





Guiding Questions:

- What are the most important roles for ED? How is this changing over time? Are there things states and districts expect from ED that they are or are not getting? Are there aspects of the working relationship between ED, states, and districts that can be improved?
- What would effective monitoring of ESSA implementation look like? In the past, what has been most helpful for states and districts? Least helpful?
- What does this suggest for the specific roles Congress and ED should play? How
 can ED support states and districts outside of formal oversight and monitoring
 (i.e., resources, tools, networks)?
- What should ED and Congress not do? What about past oversight and monitoring needs to change to ensure successful implementation of ESSA?
- How can ED and Congress ensure compliance with the law, but move states beyond a compliance mindset?

6:15 PM Networking Reception with Expert Faculty

Staffers will have the opportunity to network with participants during the reception.

Faculty Participant Attendees: Kirsten Baesler, Veronica Garcia, Pete Goldschmidt, Betheny Lyke, Sharmila Mann, Kunjan Narechania, and Jake Yunker

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Working Dinner with Discussion of Earlier Sessions

Thursday, August 10, 2017

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 - 8:45 AM	Staff reflections and feedback to guide remaining discussion
8:45 - 10:30 AM	Session VII: Challenges and Opportunities on the Horizon
	Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Dakota Jake Yunker, Deputy Policy Director, Office of Governor Mary Fallin of Oklahoma

Guiding Questions:

- As states and districts begin implementing their plans, what issues do they need
 to prepare for (i.e., building internal capacity, identifying resources, navigating
 state and local politics)? How can previous experiences inform their approaches?
- What supports will states and districts need to navigate these challenges or take advantage of these opportunities?
- What are the other dynamics (personalized learning, career and technical education/Perkins, etc.) at play in this space? How do they relate to ESSA—or not?
- Are states incorporating school choice in their ESSA plans and implementation?
 What role does ED play in incentivizing states to incorporate school choice?

10:30 - 10:45 AM Break



10:45 – 11:00 AM Complete Retreat Evaluation

11:00 – 11:30 AM Final Observations from Expert Faculty

11:30 – 12:00 PM Taking Stock: Staff Reflections and Feedback to Guide Next Steps for the Network

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch and Adjourn

1:00 PM Participants Depart